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### Any Map Readers In Washington?

Maybe Arthur Schlesinger Jr. "couldn't care less" about criticisms of his "Kennedy Keyhole" memoirs. But if they are even half-accurate, all intelligent readers should be startled into a state of high concern.

Writing of the period in April 1961, just before the disastrous Bay of Pigs venture, Mr. Schlesinger astounded me with the following revelations:

"Dulles and Bissell now redoubled their efforts at persuasion. Dulles told Kennedy that he felt much more confident about success than he ever had in the case of Guatemala, where a CIA operation had overthrown a leftwing government in 1954. Moreover, if worst came to worst and the invaders were beaten on the beaches, then, Dulles and Bissell said, they could easily 'melt away' into the mountains.

I don't think we fully realized that the Escambray Mountains lay 80 miles from the Bay of Pigs, across a hopeless tangle of swamps and jungles. The Joint Chiefs seemed to be going contentedly along . . . Robert McNamara accepted the judgment of the Joint Chiefs . . . (Emphasis mine.)

If this isn't enough to jolt the eyeteeth of all Americans, what will it take?

Are we really to understand that in all the months of planning that preceded the Cuban invasion, at the innumerable high-level conferences nobody ever looked at a map of Cuba?

Can it be that there were no Cuban maps in the White House, the State Department, the CIA or the Pentagon?

Or were the participants too "high level" to concern themselves with such a trifle? Or were they perhaps "map illiterates" such as I have encountered often among professional people whose walls were plastered with diplomas, certificates and awards?

Whatever the answer may be, we should all be gravely concerned to know that those who demand implicit confidence, blind faith and obedience—and at least in the case of CIA, a book of blank checks—were guilty of such fundamental ignorance and neglect as should flunk any sixth grade student.

I have a worried feeling that maybe this could be the source of our unending troubles in Viet Nam (where the suburbs of Saigon seem to be a little-known hinterland).

DAVID G. GEORGE.

Richmond.